News Release
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Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Ministère de la Santé et des Soins de longue durée

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OAK RIDGE BUILDING AT MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE PENETANGUISHENE SLATED FOR REPLACEMENT

Provincial Plan Will Provide Modern Facility For Patients

PENETANGUISHENE – The McGuinty government today announced that it is improving health care services for mental health patients by moving ahead with the replacement of the Oak Ridge building of the Mental Health Centre Penetanguishene, Health and Long-Term Care Minister George Smitherman announced today.

"Patients with mental illnesses should have access to the health care they need, and that includes access to the high quality hospital settings," said Smitherman. "I'm pleased to announce that the McGuinty government is moving forward with the replacement of the Oak Ridge building to provide better hospital facilities to serve the needs of mental health patients."

The replacement of the Oak Ridge building of the Mental Health Centre Penetanguishene will allow the hospital to provide clients with inpatient care in new improved facilities. The government will invest $6M this year to begin planning for the new facility. Construction of the new hospital building is expected to begin in 2009.

The Oak Ridge project is one of several projects approved under ReNew Ontario, the government's five-year, $30-billion plus infrastructure investment plan, which commits more than $5 billion to health care infrastructure. ReNew Ontario is a comprehensive plan to modernize and replace many of the province's hospitals, schools and post-secondary institutions. It will also support the provincial economy through investments in transportation, transit and research and by accommodating growth.

"This capital project is part of our government's plan to help ensure Ontarians have the high quality services they need and deserve," said David Caplan, the Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal. "This province has a long-term plan for building and developing our hospitals that will bring much needed stability and certainty to hospitals and better health care for Ontarians."

Today's initiative is part of the McGuinty government's plan for innovation in public health care, building a system that delivers on three priorities – keeping Ontarians healthy, reducing wait times and providing better access to doctors and nurses.

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Media Contacts:

Jeff Rohrer
Minister's Office
416-326-8016

David Jensen
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
416-314-6197

Members of the general public: 1-866-532-3161.

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